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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ***ARIZONA READY TO AID HURRICANE ZONES***

PHOENIX – Arizona, through its Division of Emergency Management (ADEM), has activated the necessary systems and is ready to provide aid to areas threatened by Hurricane Gustav, Governor Janet Napolitano announced today. The Governor added, "Although response systems in the Gulf Coast have improved since Hurricane Katrina, we cannot risk underestimating the level of service those citizens may need. Arizona is ready to do its part."

Arizona participates – along with all American states and territories – in the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). EMAC is a Web-based system created by Congress that allows states affected by disaster to quickly and efficiently receive assistance from other states.

Once the EMAC system is activated, states requesting assistance establish an "A-Team" to initiate and track requests for aid. Responding states indicate the cost and delivery schedule for the requested resource, creating a "mutual aid" contract. The requesting state is responsible for 100 percent reimbursement of the mutual aid in accordance with the EMAC contract. When states provide mutual aid, there are often concerns regarding liability and reimbursement; the EMAC system eliminates that problem.

In Arizona, EMAC is managed through ADEM. ADEM's Logistics Section receives and processes EMAC requests, which are then forwarded to the pertinent State agencies and County Emergency Managers. Those managers may reach out to county agencies, cities, towns, tribes and, as appropriate, the private sector. The State Emergency Operations Center will be activated until 6 p.m. today to coordinate EMAC requests.

In preparation for the hurricane, several hundred evacuation shelters have been activated in 12 states: Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Florida, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Indiana. Although Arizona has not yet been asked to provide shelter, work has begun to prepare in the event a request is received.

"In the days following Katrina, we provided shelter for evacuees and Arizonans overwhelmingly demonstrated their willingness to care for their neighbors," said Governor Napolitano. "We are ready to do it again."

Concerned family and friends can search the list of those who have registered themselves as “safe and well” at the American Red Cross Web site, [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org). If you have been affected by a disaster, this Web site provides a way for you to register yourself as “safe and well.”

If Arizona residents are interested in making donations to the affected states, go to [www.aidmatrix.org/fema](http://www.aidmatrix.org/fema). For more information about the EMAC system, contact Judy Kioski at ADEM, (602) 231-6245.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, visit [www.azgovernor.gov](http://www.azgovernor.gov).